Allotment of land to non-Resident Indians

3715. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had earlier proposed to give land to the non-resident Indians to build houses in Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that more than 300 NRIs had deposited a sum of Rs. 10,000 each in foreign exchange for this purpose;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have gone back on their promise to allot land to the NRIs against foreign exchange; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to reconsider their decision and allot land to the NRIs against foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d) The scheme had to be dropped in public interest as it was felt that it would not have been equitable to allot land at Rs. 200 per sq. yard to non-resident Indians who are among affluent sections of the people, especially in the context of the policy of the Government to auction residential plots of more than 200 sq. yds to private persons so that maximum returns may be obtained in the sale of such plots There is no proposal to reconsider the decision of the Government in this regard.

Further drought relief demanded by the States

3716. SHRI R SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of URBAN DE- be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact tnat some State Governments are not spending drought relief assistance provided by the Centre properly;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some State Governments are not submitting the utilisation certificates to the Central Government before seeking, further assistance for drought relief; and

(c) if so, which are those States and what steps Government are taking to see that assistance provided by Government for specific purposes is spent on those purposes alone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Some deviations from the guidelines|norms prescribed by the Government of India for the application of Central assistance have been noted in the execution of drought relief measures by states.

(b) The Central assistance to the States for relief of natural calamities is being released in the light of item-wise utilisation|expenditure reported by the State Governments against the approved ceilings. Expenditure incurred on any item over and above the ceilings approved, is required to be met by the State Governments' own resources. As such, the State Governments are bound to spend the assistance on the items for which ceilings have been approved. Further, as per the existing procedure, final reconciliation of these accounts is done only after the receipt of the audited